

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/822,979

Examiner

Anh-Vu H. Ly

Applicant(s)

LERNER, ABNER

Art Unit

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment after final filed March 22, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3-13, 15-21 renumbered as 1-19 respectively.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Christopher P. Maiorana on March 29, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

In The Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
one or more stations each configured to (i) receive local events from a local input and (ii) present broadcast timing information over a shared communication channel, wherein said one or more stations are each configured to (i) present said broadcast timing information comprising (a) a first synchronous local event and (b) a last synchronous local event and (ii) share said broadcast timing information with each of said other stations over said shared communication channel; wherein (i) each station further comprises a receive time delay circuit having a delay time of M and a transmit time delay circuit having a delay time of N and (ii) a propagation delay through the shared communication channel between any two of the stations is less than one clock cycle.
12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

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means for (i) receiving local events from a local input for each of one or more stations and (ii) presenting broadcast event timing information over a shared communication channel; and

means for sharing said broadcast event timing information between said stations, wherein said broadcast event timing information comprises (a) a first synchronous local event and (b) a last synchronous local event shared over said shared communication channel; wherein (i) each station further comprises a receive time delay circuit having a delay time of M and a transmit time delay circuit having a delay time of N and (ii) a propagation delay through the shared communication channel between any two of the stations is less than one clock cycle.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for sharing event detection information comprising the steps of:

(A) receiving local events from a local input for each of one or more stations;
(B) generating broadcast timing information in response to said local events; and
(C) sharing said broadcast timing information between said stations, wherein said broadcast timing information comprises (a) a first synchronous local event and (b) a last synchronous local event shared over a shared communication channel;

wherein (i) each station further comprises a receive time delay circuit having a delay time of M and a transmit time delay circuit having a delay time of N and (ii) a propagation delay through the shared communication channel between any two of the stations is less than one clock cycle.

Drawings

Fig. 1 should be labeled as "Conventional".

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 3-13, and 15-21 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not teach or fairly suggest presenting and sharing broadcast timing information comprising a first synchronous local event and a last synchronous local event over a single shared communication channel between stations and wherein a propagation delay through the shared communication channel between any two of the stations is less than one clock cycle, as specified in independent claims 1, 12, and 13.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Halma et al (US Patent No. 5,522,088) discloses shared channel subsystem has a self timed interface using a received clock signal to individually phase align bits received from a parallel bus.

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Mallory (US Pub 2002/0057717 A1) discloses method of sharing information among a plurality of stations in a frame-based communications network.


Flynn (US Patent No. 5,790,829) discloses event synchronization mechanism.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anh-Vu H. Ly whose telephone number is 571-272-3175. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chi Pham can be reached on 571-272-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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CHI PHAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
3/30/06